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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/015,481	12/13/2001	Martin Wildeman	TIE-003PA	6635

7590 09/11/2006

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EXAMINER

ANDERSON, CATHARINE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3761

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In response to the applicant's argument that neither Heiman nor Schwartz disclose a "user contact surface" comprising the bonding yarns, it is noted that the instant claim does not require the entire surface to comprise the bonding yarns or the user to only come into contact with the bonding yarns. The "user contacting surface" is merely a broad description, and does not clearly define the physical structure of the textile structure. Therefore, the bonding yarns of Heiman and Schwartz, which are located along the surface of the textile structures, are fully capable of coming into contact with the user, and therefore constitute a "user contacting surface."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 9-15, 23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz (3,717,150) in view of Catallo (4,363,161).

Schwartz discloses all aspects of the claimed invention with the exception of the step of mechanically shrinking the composite comprising mechanically

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pressing. Schwartz discloses method of forming a textile structure for containing liquids, as shown in figure 1. The method comprises providing a fluid retaining core layer 10 comprising a blend of hydrophobic and hydrophilic fibers in a nonwoven batting, as described in column 3, lines 9-20. A bonding yarn 12 is applied in a repeating stitch bond pattern, as shown in figures 1 and 2, and described in column 3, lines 52-61. The stitch bonded composite 11 is then mechanically shrunk, as described in column 4, lines 28-32. The stitch bonded composite 11 is shrunk by a dryer, as described in column 4, lines 28-41.

Catallo teaches a method of shrinking a textile structure comprising mechanically pressing the textile structure during the controlled application of a mechanical compression force, as described in column 3, lines 11-42. This method allows for more control over the shrinking of the textile structure, as disclosed in column 6, lines 60-65.

It would therefore be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to shrink the textile structure of Schwartz using mechanical compression, as taught by Catallo, to provide greater control over the shrinking step.

With respect to claim 2, the bonding yarns 12 are spun, as disclosed in column 5, line 11.

With respect to claim 9, the bonding yarns 12 are polyester, as disclosed in column 3, lines 38, and inherently have a texture.

With respect to claims 10-12, the bonding yarns 12 are applied at a stitch density of about 8 stitches per inch, as disclosed in column 4, lines 1-2.

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With respect to claim 13, the bonding yarns 12 form a user contact surface, as shown in figure 1.

With respect to claims 14 and 15, the stitch bonded composite 11 is shortened by about 15%, or not less than 5%, as disclosed in column 4, lines 32-33.

With respect to claims 23 and 25, Schwartz discloses an incontinence pad and diaper comprising the textile structure, as shown in figure 8.

Claims 3-8, 16-22, 24, and 26 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz (3,717,150) in view of Catallo (4,363,161), and further in view of Heiman (5,759,662).

Schwartz, as modified by Catallo, discloses all aspects of the claimed invention with the exception of the bonding yarn comprising cotton. Heiman teaches the use of either 100% polyester yarn or a yarn comprising a blend of polyester and cotton, as described in column 3, lines 35-38, as equivalent for use as bonding yarn in a fluid containment textile structure. Therefore, because polyester/cotton blend yarn and polyester yarn were art-recognized equivalents at the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to substitute a polyester/cotton blend yarn.

With respect to claims 6 and 19, Heiman remains silent as to the proportions of polyester and cotton in the bonding yarn. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to make the yarn 65% polyester and 35% cotton, since it has been held that where the general

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conditions (i.e. a polyester/cotton blend) are disclosed in the prior art, finding the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art.

With respect to claims 7-8 and 20, Heiman remains silent as to the cotton count of the bonding yarn. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to make the yarn with a cotton count of about 10, since it has been held that where the general conditions (i.e. a polyester/cotton blend) are disclosed in the prior art, finding the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Lynne Anderson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4932. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

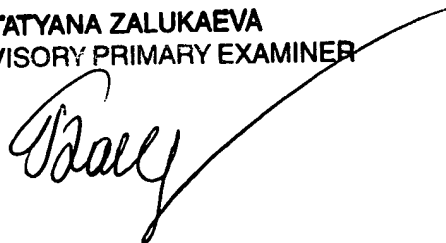
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CNA
cla

August 31, 2006

TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tatyana', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right across the signature block.